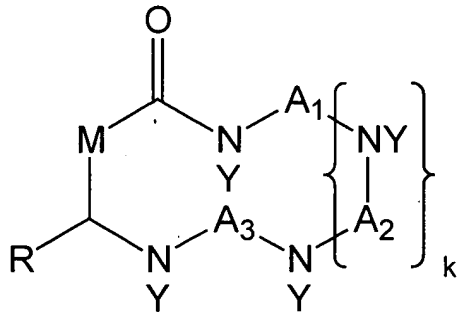
AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 15, 19, 24, 26, and 44 as follows:

15. A method of synthesizing a compound of the formula



wherein A_1, each A_2 (if present), and A_3 are independently selected from C_1-C_8 alkyl;

wherein each Y is independently selected from H or C_1-C_4 alkyl;

wherein M is selected from C_1-C_4 alkyl;

wherein k is 0, 2, or 3;

and wherein R is selected from C_1-C_{32} alkyl;

comprising the steps of:

reacting an ω-halo alkyl alkanoate with an aldehyde or ketone-containing compound to give an alkene-containing alkanoate compound;

reacting the alkene-containing alkanoate compound with a compound containing two primary amino groups and optionally containing secondary amino groups to effect addition of one of the amino groups across the double bond;

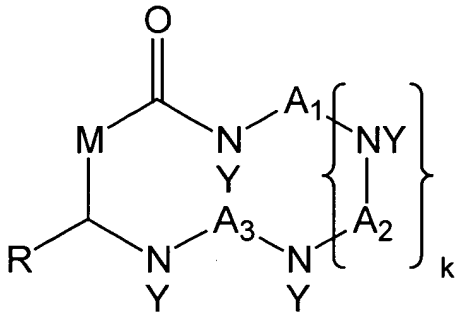
cyclizing the other amino group with the alkanoate group to form an amide bond; and

optionally alkylating the secondary amino groups if present.

19. The method of claim 16, wherein the compound containing two primary amino groups is selected from the group consisting of $H_2N\text{-}A_1\text{-}(NH\text{-}A_2)_k\text{-}NH\text{-}A_3\text{-}NH_2$

wherein A_1, each A_2 (if present), and A_3 are independently selected from C_1-C_8 alkyl and k is 0, 2, or 3.

24. A method of synthesizing a compound of the formula



wherein A_1 is C_3 alkyl, and each A_2 (if present) and A_3 are independently selected from C_1-C_8 alkyl;

wherein each Y is independently selected from H or C_1-C_4 alkyl;

wherein M is selected from C_1-C_4 alkyl;

wherein k is 0, 2, or 3;

and wherein R is selected from C_1-C_{32} alkyl;

comprising the steps of:

condensing a compound comprising a primary amino group and a hexahydropyrimidine moiety with an α,β-unsaturated ester compound such that the primary amino group adds at the β-position of the unsaturated ester compound, whereby the primary amino group is converted to a secondary amino group;

cleaving the methylene bridge of the hexahydropyrimidine moiety to generate a secondary amino group and a newly-generated primary amino group; and

condensing the newly-generated primary amino group with the ester group to form an amide group.

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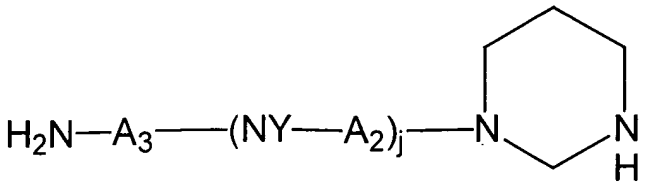
26. The method of claim 24, wherein the compound comprising a primary amino group and a hexahydropyrimidine moiety is of the formula



wherein each A_2 (if present) and A_3 are independently selected from C_1-C_8 alkyl;

wherein each Y is independently selected from H or C_1-C_4 alkyl; and

wherein j is 0, 2, or 3.

44. A method of synthesizing a compound of claim 37, wherein A_4 is C_3 alkyl and X is $-NH_2$, comprising reducing the nitrile group of a compound of the formula

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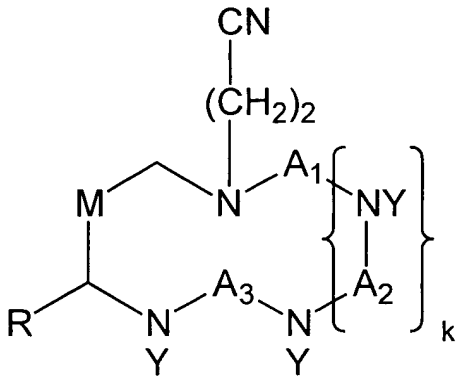

to an amino group.